

REMARKS

This is responsive to the Office Action mailed on May 6, 2005. In that Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 36-39, 45, 51 and 52, allowed claims 21-27, 53 and 54 and objected to claims 40-44 and 46-50.

With this Amendment, independent claims 21, 36 and 53 have been amended, dependent claims 26-27, 47, 48 have been amended, claims 45, 46, 49 and 50 have been cancelled and new claim 55 has been added. The present application now includes claims 21-44, 47, 48, 51-55.

Independent claims 21, 36 and 53 have been amended to include the additional step of hydrolyzing the mucosa tissue. This step was the subject matter of claims 46 and 49 which the Office Action objected to. Therefore, adding this step to independent claims 36 and 53 makes these claims patentable. Independent claim 21 which had been previously allowed is being amended to better define applicant's invention.

Dependent claims 26, 27, 47 and 48 have been amended to reflect the changes made to the independent claims from which these dependent claims depend.

New claim 55 which depends from independent claim 53 includes essentially the same subject matter as dependent claim 48, which subject matter was objected to by the last Office Action. Therefore, since it now depends from an allowed independent claim, and in addition has subject matter which was indicated as allowable, claim 55 is also allowable.

In view of the above, it is believed that all of the claims in the application are in allowable form, and it is respectfully requested that the rejected claims be reconsidered and a Notice of Allowance be issued for all of the claims that are presently pending.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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